

[1 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when it is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) On the total migrant population of 191 million in the world today, it is estimated that about 49% are women. While precise data on the number of Indian women working abroad is not available, it is estimated that about 44% of migrants from southern part of Asia are women.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Dual passports to NRIs

333. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have put the much-publicized scheme of issuance of dual passports to NRIs on back-burner;

(b) if so, in what manner the envisaged benefits emerging from dual Passports to NRIs would now be achieved so as to involve them in Nation's developmental activities more vigorously through their vast resources and expertise; and

(c) the general consensus amongst NRIs and their Federations, etc. about the inordinate delay in implementing this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) There has been no proposal to issue dual passports to NRIs under consideration.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Investment by NRIs

234. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister has urged the NRIs/PIOs at Pravasi Bhartiya Divas to invest in India;

(b) if so, the reasons due to which PIO's have not been allowed to invest upto 100% in aviation sector including domestic airlines;

(c) whether Government have received a large number of representations from various quarters urging Government to allow PIO's invest in aviation sector; and

(d) if so, the steps Government have taken on these representations so far and by when a final decision would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per present policy of FDI in the airport sector, 100% FDI is permissible in the Green field airport through automatic route whereas 74% FDI is permitted in existing airports with automatic approval and 100% through FIPB route. However, the FDI in restructuring of Delhi and Mumbai airports has been capped at 49% . In the Air Transport sector (Domestic Airlines) 49% FDI is permitted through automatic route (100% for NRIs) with no direct or indirect participation by foreign airlines. A proposal on PIO investment in air transport services (Domestic Aviation) is under consideration of the Government.

(d) No specific representation on the subject has been received.

Voting rights to Indians living abroad

335. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider providing franchising rights to the Indian Passport holders living abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to bring constitutional amendments to this effect; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) With a view to enabling citizens of India who are absenting from their place of ordinary residence owing to their employment, education or otherwise outside India to get their names enrolled in the electoral rolls and cast their votes when they are in their constituency at the time of polls, the Government introduced the Representation of the People